

# The Communicator

## Marine Wing Communications Squadron - 28

Vol. 2 Edition 11

June 2004

### Commander's Corner

A large portion of the Squadron is still forward deployed fighting our nations enemies in the Global War on Terrorism. We have Marines in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. In all of these locations they are providing critical communications in support of combat operations... What does that mean?

Well, the term "communications", for our Squadron includes telephones, radios, and computers. Our civilian counterparts would be an internet, email and web home page provider, a combined local and long distance telephone company that runs all the cables for the phones and computers; and the telephone switchboards and data servers. We additionally would be a telecommunications company that interconnects all these systems together with long-range radios, microwave radio systems and satellite systems. We also have our trucks and HMMWVs for mobility, our own power, and our organic maintenance capability on everything we own!!!

Okay, that is what we mean by "communications" .... Now what do we do with all this "communications" in a combat zone? MWCS-28's mission is to simultaneously provide communications to the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Commanding General's headquarters, called the Tactical Air Command Center, or TACC, four Forward Air Bases or FOBs, up to eight smaller Forward Arming and Refueling Points or FARPs, and to the units and elements of the Marine Air Command and Control Systems, or MACCS. The MACCS includes teams that man the TACC, teams that move with the Division, providing them with direct air support, teams that provide air traffic control and long range air surveillance radars, and finally air defense missile teams.

Please keep us all in your thoughts and prayers as we train and execute our mission in support of our nation.

Semper Fidelis,  
LtCol Ken Gill, USMC

### Go Online

Check out the new and improved MWCS-28 website! Here you can view information on the Squadron, upcoming events and information, and pictures of Squadron Happenings. Plus so much more!



<http://www.2maw.usmc.mil/CherryPoint/MWCS28/MWCS28.asp>  
or, call the **hotline**  
252-466-3669



Lieutenant Colonel Kenyon Gill,  
USMC

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# Deployment News

## Where ARE our Spartans Now?



Currently our Spartans can be located at many places on our globe here and abroad. We have men and women serving our country and defending our freedom at Cherry Point, North Carolina, Iraq (OIF II), The Horn of Africa (HOA), and two groups are supporting the 22nd & 24th MEUs.



The address to send letters and packages to your Marine at OIF II is:

Rank First Name, Last Name  
MWCS-28 DET A, B Co  
Unit 78072  
FPO AE 09509-8072



### DEPLOYED SPOUSES SUPPORT

Are you a spouse of a deployed Service Member? Do you need the oil changed or the tires rotated on your privately owned vehicle? The **Auto Skills Center** wants to help! You buy the oil and filter and they will provide the labor and lift **FREE** of charge! They also perform a multi-point safety check **FREE**! Bring your vehicle by the Auto Skills Center, located at the end of Onslow Dr. just off of Roosevelt Ave, Mondays from 11am-8pm. For more details call 466-2352.





# KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK

## MWCS-28 Bids Farewell to Key Volunteer Coordinator

Greetings everyone! It has been a busy year for the Squadron. Currently, we apart of several deployments and training exercises.

I would like to welcome all our new Key Volunteers and say farewell to those who are leaving us; your efforts and time have been greatly appreciated. I will also be leaving next month to move to Pennsylvania and will step down as the Key Volunteer Coordinator. Although I will leave Cherry Point, I will maintain my call tree from PA. My tenure as Coordinator for the Squadrons was a very rewarding experience. I have had the opportunity meet our families as well as some very dear friends. I will miss you all!

I would also like to welcome Kelly as our new Squadron Key Volunteer Coordinator! She is a super person and will continue the tradition of assisting the squadron in helping out our families.

Likewise, I would also like to welcome all of our new families to the squadron and hope that you will access the Key Volunteer Program when needed; we are here to help! If anyone is interested in becoming a Key Volunteer please let us know; there are classes held each month on base!

I also wanted to send a thank you out to our Spartan families, without your love and support for our Marines they could not perform their tasks as smoothly and easily as they have. For all those deployed, we have you in our thoughts and prayers. I am especially looking forward to the homecoming of my own Marine!!!! We could not have excelled without the assistance and efforts of so many this last year; my heart-felt thanks goes out to each and every one!!!  
Suc Ellen



## MWCS-28 Welcomes New Key Volunteer Coordinator

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Kelley. I am extremely excited to be assuming the position of MWCS-28 Squadron Coordinator. My family moved to Cherry Point in February from 29 Palms, where we were stationed for 5 ½ years. I am currently employed by my 3 wonderful children, but you will find me volunteering for whatever I can squeeze into their schedules and I know I can do it whole heartedly.

In the time that I have been a KV with this unit I have met some wonderful people. I am looking forward to working with them. To those that are leaving, I am so sorry to see you go. I wish that I had more of an opportunity to get to know you. It is obvious that you have accomplished some great things with this squadron, and we are better off because of you and your families. I would also like to give a warm welcome to the new volunteers. We have some large shoes to fill, but I am confident that together we can accomplish great things. I know that we have a great group of volunteers, wonderful leaders, and a ton of fresh ideas.

I am looking forward to meeting the Spartan families. Please don't hesitate to give a little "howdy" when you see my crew and me.

## MWCS-28 Key Volunteer Network

### Squadron KV Advisor

Pam  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
HQS-1

### Squadron KV Coordinator

Kelley  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
HQCE (A-M)

### Newsletter Editor

Sandra  
Projects Team Leader

Angela  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
BDCP

### Company AKV Coordinator

Jill  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
AHQS / ADCP

### Key Volunteers

Kimberly  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
AWIR  
Wendy  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
ASCR  
Anja  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
AMUX  
Mary  
Key Volunteer

### Company BKV Coordinator

Stephanie  
Telephone Tree Assignment BMUX

### Key Volunteers

Tracey  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
BWIR  
Kristi  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
BHQS  
Lesley  
Telephone Tree  
BSCR

### H&S Company KV Coordinator

Jewel  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
HQCE (N-Z)

### Key Volunteers

Terry  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
HQHQ, HQS-3  
Sue Ellen  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
HQMT, HQUT  
Angela  
Telephone Tree Assignment  
HQS-4, HQSP  
Catherine  
H&S Key Volunteer  
Denise  
H&S Key Volunteer

Due to Operational Security and the 2MAW SOP the Webmaster cannot display last names and home phone numbers of KV's. To get the tree listing please pick up a hard copy. We apologize for the inconvenience.



## Alpha Company Coordinator Says Goodbye

Hello Alpha Co. Spartans!

With much sadness this will be my last article for the newsletter. My husband has orders for Recruiting Duty and we will be PCSing later this summer. With that being said, I have decided to step down as the Alpha Company Coordinator. This will allow another Key Volunteer to except the challenge of being a Company Coordinator and to experience all of the wonderful things that I have had the pleasure of experiencing within the past year. I want to thank you all for pitching in and supporting the KVN when it was needed most, especially during Operation Iraqi Freedom last year and the numerous deployments since. It was wonderful meeting all of you, whether it was during our planned events or just out and about. I will always treasure the newly found friendships. Before I go, I want to pass on a little funny advice to the new KVs of Alpha Company...

When in doubt...order Smithfields. Ü

Respectfully,  
Tina

## Alpha Company Coordinator Says Hello

Jill is our new Alpha Company Coordinator. Currently, she is at home welcoming her new baby boy. We would like to congratulate Jill and her husband on their new son Carter who arrived a little earlier than expected. Thus, an article was not available for this newsletter's deadline.



**Alert, Alert, Alert  
Movie Fans!!!**

**Starting June 1,  
2004  
all base movies  
will be reduced to  
\$1.00!**

**Enjoy!**

## **Looking for A Few Good Volunteers!**

The Spartans are always in search of new faces with helping hearts and hands that can give of their time to support our mission. Become a Key Volunteer; sign up for training today!

### Upcoming KV Training

June 12	Saturday	8am-5pm
July 13-15	Tuesday-Thursday	6-9:30pm
August 10-12	Tuesday-Thursday	9am-12:30pm
September 18	Saturday	8am-5pm
October 12-14	Tuesday-Thursday	6-9:30pm
November 16-18	Tuesday-Thursday	9am-12:30pm

### Upcoming LINKS Training

June 12 Saturday	8am-6pm
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### **MWCS – 28 Welcomes New Bravo Company Coordinator**

Greetings to all the ladies and gentlemen of MWCS-28. My name is Stephanie. I am very pleased to be taking over the responsibilities of Bravo Co. Coordinator. Angela will be stepping down from the coordinator position and will prepare for retirement. I am sure you will agree we will all miss her. I would like to wish The Angela and her family great success in their future endeavors as civilians. We know that nothing will replace the Marine Corps in their memories.

My husband and I joined MWCS-28 in January. We came from Camp Lejeune. I have been a Key Volunteer for over four years. During these past four years my husband has had three deployments and one trip to school in CA. I am experienced with absences which as we all know, makes the heart grow fonder.

With "Over The Hump" approaching fast, we will be counting down to the return of our Bravo loved ones. Hopefully it won't seem much longer now.

As you know, you can contact your key volunteer with any questions or concerns that you may have. We work hard to get your questions answered and your concerns resolved. Please check the list of Key Volunteers to make sure that you know who your KV is. Also place their card or name and number in your purse. So you can always contact them with your questions.

I am looking forward to being with MWCS-28 for several years. Let's all work together to make sure that they are productive and happy years. I hope to see as many of you as possible at future functions.

## **Looking for A Few Good Volunteers!**

The Spartans are always in search of new faces with helping hearts and hands that can give of their time to support our mission. Become a Key Volunteer; sign up for training today!

### **Upcoming KV Training**

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October 12-14	Tuesday-Thursday	6-9:30pm
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### **Upcoming LINKS Training**

June 12	Saturday	8am-6pm
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### **Greetings from H & S Company Coordinator**

Greetings to all. First, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families that have recently joined H & S Company.

I would also like to extend a welcome to Kelly, Angela, Catherine, and Denise our new Key Volunteers. We extend a farewell to Terry.

I hope this newsletter finds all in good health and spirits. I hope you all had a great Easter and Mother's Day.

Please don't hesitate to contact your Key Volunteer if a problem arises or if you have any questions. There are openings for Key Volunteers if anyone is interested please let us know.

## New Medical Appointment Line

### ATTENTION MILITARY BENEFICIARIES:

As of July 1, 2004, the Humana TRICARE Central Appointment Line  
(1-800-931-9501) will cease to exist

Beginning June 1, 2004, Naval Hospital  
Cherry Point will offer a local appointment  
line for our military beneficiaries to make  
medical appointments for Family Practice,  
Internal Medicine, Pediatrics,  
and Optometry  
Call:

**252-466-0921 or 1-866-698-5834**

**to speak directly to a clerk at the hospital.  
For all other appointments, call that clinic directly.**



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**Hey Good Lookin', What Ya Got Cookin'?**

We are collecting recipes for a  
squadron cookbook in all categories,  
including special ways to enhance  
MRE's.

Please email or call your KV with your  
recipes by June 15 to get your name in  
the drawing. The more recipes, the  
more chances you have to win!!

A box will be available for recipes at  
Movie Night.

# News From The Front



*"I am convinced that there is no smarter, handier, or more adaptable body of troops in the world, than the United States Marine Corps".*

*~Sir Winston Churchill*

Marines of Bravo Company arrived on deck at an undisclosed Forward Operating Base within central Iraq in early March. Ever since, they have made great strides adapting to their new environment. Whether it be training themselves mentally to deal with the extreme changes in temperature day-to-day, or passively conforming to the operational mindset of 'mission first', the Marines adjusted from their previous garrison routine into that of the deployed lifestyle. The following is a short synopsis of the deployed lifestyle in Bravo Company.

## Who Do We Thank For The Weather?

More often than not, the weather in Iraq is equivalent to that of a nice day at the beach in Florida, except there is no shorelines anywhere near us, and instead of 90 degree days it's more like 105 degrees. On the rare occasion that we

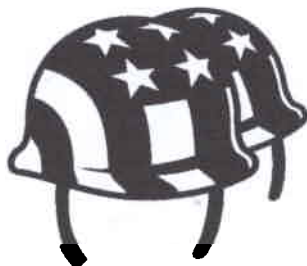
encounter a storm (maybe once every two weeks), take the nice weather at the beach, throw in 35 mph hot air high winds, and a side order of occasional downpours, and you have yourself a genuine, central Iraqi tropical storm. To grasp this concept a little better, simply lie in a sandbox, pour water of your head, and then have your neighbor turn on the leaf blower for a good 6 hours. It truly is a sight to see and a mess to clean up!

## Life Under The Big-Top Tent

The living accommodations for Bravo Company consists of six to eight Marines under one very large, doublewide trailer sized, Kuwaiti fashioned tent. Each tent comes complete with plywood floors, electrical outlets, and a refrigerator. Many Marines made liaison with outgoing Army soldiers to "acquire" any furniture they may have made over the last year. In addition, several luxury items can be bought at the camp PX to make life a little more comfortable, such as thin mattresses for the cots, TVs, and coffee-makers. The general consensus among the Marines is that life could be a lot worse, and we all understand how good we have it under the big top.

## A Taste of Culture

In case the Marines ever get tired of eating from the scrumptious spread at our camp chow hall, there is another alternative besides MRE's. At the edge of the Camp there is a restaurant serving Iraqi and other Middle Eastern cuisine for an affordable price. Each meal comes with a complimentary bottle of Pepto Bismol with every purchase. Along with the restaurant, there are also a few stores selling everything from DVDs, to magic carpets and authentic beads. Giving the local business owners this opportunity is in keeping with the I MEF motto "no greater friend, no worse enemy".





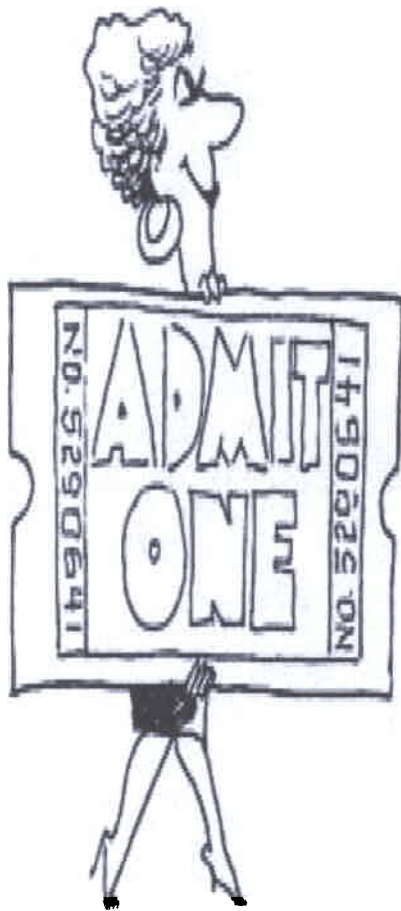
*The Officers and Staff of Bravo Company wish  
to thank all the families & friends of Bravo  
Company for your prayers and support.*

***Semper Fidelis***

## **“Home Sweet Home”**







Please join the families of MWCS-28  
on  
Friday, June 4, 2004  
At the Squadron Headquarters Building  
for  
**MOVIE NIGHT**

We will provide the movie and the popcorn;  
you bring your blankets, towels, bug spray,  
and picnic baskets.

Don't miss out on the fun!

In addition to the newly released "family  
movie", come by and send a video message  
to your deployed Marine.

Also, check out our LIVE entertainment:  
**Splash the Staff!!!**

Video recordings will begin at 6pm.

The movie will start at 8pm.

Make sure to come early to get a great seat  
and enjoy the concession stand!



**NOW SHOWING**

# Marine Awards & Promotions

## THE FOLLOWING MARINES RECEIVED AWARDS IN APRIL / MAY

<b>LtCol Gill, KM</b>	Bronze Star	<b>Cpl Lawrence, TD</b>	Certificate of Commendation
<b>Maj Bowers, SR</b>	Meritorious Service Medal	<b>Cpl Small, DE</b>	Certificate of Commendation
<b>Maj Sullivan, AN</b>	Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal	<b>LCpl Vincent, H</b>	Certificate of Commendation
<b>CWO2 Isaacs, TE</b>	Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal	<b>Sgt Pastore, MF</b>	Meritorious Mast
<b>MSgt Hall, BS</b>	Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal	<b>Cpl Borrero, IL</b>	Meritorious Mast
<b>GySgt Dillard, JD</b>	Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal	<b>Cpl Potra, RF</b>	Meritorious Mast
<b>LCpl Cates, RW</b>	Joint Service Achievement Medal	<b>Cpl Blattel, BT</b>	Meritorious Mast
<b>SSgt Malyk, BK</b>	Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal	<b>LCpl Boser, RM</b>	Meritorious Mast
<b>Cpl Everett, DA</b>	Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal	<b>LCpl Carrera, E</b>	Meritorious Mast
<b>Cpl Haffner, CA</b>	Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal	<b>LCpl Pace, MA</b>	Meritorious Mast
<b>LCpl Smith, MJ</b>	Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal	<b>LCpl Udd, CC</b>	Meritorious Mast
		<b>PFC Chavez, MP</b>	Meritorious Mast
		<b>LCpl Allen II, JH</b>	Letter of Appreciation
		<b>LCpl Gonzalez, G</b>	Letter of Appreciation
		<b>LCpl Norton, BR</b>	Letter of Appreciation
		<b>LCpl Miller, LR</b>	Letter of Appreciation
		<b>LCpl Sass, CM</b>	Letter of Appreciation
		<b>PFC Martin, AW</b>	Letter of Appreciation

## THE FOLLOWING MARINES WERE PROMOTED IN APRIL

TO LANCE CORPORAL  
**Slaughter, DW**

TO CORPORAL  
**Monroe, DA**  
**Collins, ME**  
**Borrero, IL**

TO SERGEANT  
**Thevinin, PK**  
**Ross, CM**  
**Meyer, MA**

TO STAFF SERGEANT  
**Rickert, SA**  
**Kilgore, CA**  
**Terry, DS**

TO GUNNERY SERGEANT  
**Malone JR, A**

TO MASTER SERGEANT  
**Hall, BS**

## THE FOLLOWING MARINES WERE PROMOTED IN MAY

TO LANCE CORPORAL  
**Nemr, PW**  
**Stacruz, CL**  
**Tryon, DJ**

TO CORPORAL  
**Fertik, JS**  
**Rojas, JP**  
**Reddy, DJ**  
**Diemler, JE**  
**Allen, IR**  
**Boersma, D**  
**Johnston, TL**

TO 1STSGT  
**Pangborn, BL**

TO 1STLT  
**Larson, KD**  
**Nowlin, DS**

TO CAPTAIN  
**Heslin, BJ**



**Next Issue:**  
**September 2004**